

'FLU BUGGED WANDERERS BATTERED BY BARKING

Lose A Two Goals Lead

Barking 2, Wycombe Wanderers 2.

by 'Argus'

TROTTING onto the frozen unfriendly Vicarage Field in smart new blue track suits, Barking looked a little like Real Madrid in their pre-match warm up. Only the surroundings and the few chilled spectators spelled the difference. But once in action, down-to-earth, determined Barking surprised Wycombe Wanderers with the ferocity of their football and were a shade unlucky not to have taken both points.

Bugged by influenza, Wycombe fielded an experimental side which included 17 years old left-half John Cooper, making his debut; Charlie Gale at inside-left and Alan Murphy, playing his first game for a month, at outside-left. Out of action were Dave Thomas, Steve Hyde and Tony Horseman.

All things considered, Wycombe were happy to take away the one point. Unlucky Barking trailed 2-0 at the interval but glowed with resolution under the second half floodlights and battered away until they forced Wycombe to concede the two vital goals.

They were speeded on their way by some of the most fervent spectators I have seen this season. East End patriotism went mad in this game.

John Fisher, who was clearly feeling the onslaught of a cold, was given a lot of running about to do by the speedy Barking leader Dave Hearne and the entire Barking team played with a confidence they had never displayed at Loakes Park the previous week.

ENCHANTING GOAL

Barking cut out most of the first half work but they lacked a marksman of Peter James' calibre. In ten devastating minutes — in which the Wycombe forwards played the best soccer of the game — James might have won the points on his own. Receiving from Dave Worley and Jimmy Hay he first sent a terrific shot thundering off the home cross-bar.

An undeterred James made quick amends with as enchanting a goal as Wanderers have scored all season. Gale, Georgie Blair and Hay shared in a move which could have come off Tottenham's drawing board and James picked his spot with a fierce 25 yards drive.

Dynamic Dave Worley, whose strength and uncompromising tackling made him the pick of the Wycombe defenders, was instrumental in scoring the second goal, after 25 minutes. His free-kick was headed past the goalkeeper by home pivot Norman.

Worley worked up a fine understanding with right-back John Beck. He is terribly unlucky not to have won a regular first team place.

INTO OBSCURITY

The Murphy-Gale wing never functioned and the most dangerous of Hay's flicks were those he sent onto the right flank. Blair and James both had an exciting and enterprising first half and were always dangerous. But after the break they faded into obscurity, together with the rest of the Wycombe attack.



John Cooper

Encouraged by a goal by Hearne within seconds of the restart, Barking dominated the game for long periods. The soccer was rough and tough and elegance was quickly forgotten. Cooper came through this strenuous senior soccer baptism with credit. This sturdy, fair haired youngster tackled with the best of them.

Goalkeeper Ken Brown played an heroic role in Wycombe's second half backs-to-the-wall fight. He saved several 'certain goals' and had no chance when the ball flashed off Beck's leg into his own net.

Honour was well satisfied in this result.